

Nicola's Notes from PBNA meeting 2-6-17

>Welcome by Peter Lavelle

>Leading discussion – Scott Mabel and Jeff Holland.

Came together tonight to meet one another, gauge interest in the PBNA and get an idea of what people are interested in. There is a desire to make the PBNA active again and this is the initial step towards doing that.

>Topics touched upon:

- We need one or two people to do the communications functions for the PBNA
- Chip Huhta is the Interim Treasurer – there is about \$5000 in the two accounts – we have raised money through the annual sale of wreaths – Chip would like to revive the practice of giving a donation to the South End Library – no one objected but we didn't really ask for vote.
- Scott Mabel & Chip Huhta are currently the only remaining Board Members although the Board is effectively dissolved - some members of the council are still involved
- By-laws state that elections are to be held in May, so we will aim for that timeframe to vote in new officers.
- What expectations to people have for the PBNA? Some things that have been worked on over the years have been: neighborhood clean-ups; addressing crime as it arises; Spring potluck social; Halloween.
- Peter made the point that even in a period when there was less overall involvement of neighbors in the PBNA, active and involved folks managed to have a positive impact on our neighborhood in areas such as getting construction vehicles out of resident spots, ensuring that an appropriate food establishment went into the corner spot at Tremont & W. Brookline.
- Zoning: Steve Wolfe gave a brief history of his involvement in PBNA starting in 1994 when he as involved with keeping up with zoning issues in the neighborhood. He added that no two alleys have ownership structured in the same way. A number of people agreed that the alley issue is a long-standing one and is very complicated.
- PBNA Board: Steve Wolfe gave a brief history of past elections – this is the second time he has experienced the slowing down of the association – he feels that the history of elections is important to learn from so we don't get into "trouble" again – Suggests that 1 year terms with an option for 1 additional term be required, so people don't stay on too long and get burned out – it works out well when there is a V.P that is set to take the President's role when that person's term(s) is up. Continuity is essential, he believes.
- Quality of Life Issues: brief discussion of all the things that fall under this umbrella, e.g. zoning, safety, clean streets, alleys (sewers,paving), parking.
- Jeff suggested that the PBNA can be a resource for neighbors about services available to residents of the SE and Boston, such as the 311App & website & phone #, trash pick up schedules, etc. – suggestions for communication include the PBNA web page, the Facebook page, Twitter and other social media.
- Consensus was that 2 – 3 meetings a year will be sufficient, especially if we have ways to communicate in the interim between meetings (see above)
- Long-range planning will come about as we seen who is interested in being active as a Board member or as a lead on a sub-committee.
- Possibility of dues was raised and a brief discussion ensued – no decision about this.
- Charlie urged everyone to read the information at PBNA.org, especially the document from the SE News about the history of the alleys.
- A sign-up sheet was passed around to gauge interest in the following committees:
 - Zoning
 - Trash
 - Social
 - Alley
 - By-Law Review
- Some people signed up but we will need to send an electronic sign-up as well. Nicola has the sign-up sheet and will send it to Scott and Jeff.
- Nicola gave a brief description of the Friends of O' Day Park group that was started in the wake of an increase in crime at the intersections of Tremont & W. Brookline and Tremont and Pembroke, in and around O' Day and on Shawmut by Blackstone Park, in 2013 through the first half of 2016. The Friends group is an opportunity to connect the PBNA neighborhood with our neighbors across Tremont St at the Villa Victoria and on the Tremont to Shawmut block of West Newton St. She asked for names of people interested in participating in this group and a sign-up sheet was passed around.

>Meeting adjourned at 7:35pm